2. During his term as NOD on any Bank, such Director will not undertake any professional work (statutory audit, concurrent audit, legal retainership or empanelment as a lawyer etc.) in any other Public Sector Bank.

3. If a person having professional relationship with bank, including cooperative bank, is selected for being nominated on the board of any bank, he will have to sever his connection with the bank before such before such appointment.

4. Professionals shall not be nominated on the Board of a PSB with which they have had a business relationship during the last 3 years before such nomination.

(VII) REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Effort should be made to ensure representation of all the six zones of the country—North, South, East, West, Central and North-East—on the Boards of Public Sector Banks taken together.

Assistance for Panchayati Raj Institutions in Madhya Pradesh

†1565. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had to provide financial assistance worth Rs. 505.47 crores to Madhya Pradesh from 2000-01 to 2004-05 for three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions on the basis of the recommendations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) the amount out of the above, that has been made available to Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if not, when it will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) A sum of Rs. 454.91 crore was released to Government of Madhya Pradesh upto 31.3.2005, subject to the fulfilment of conditionalities attached to the release of grants and taking into account the pace of utilization of grants upto a prescribed period.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No further grants can be released for the purpose as Eleventh Finance Commission award period was over on 31.3.2005.

Opening of additional branches of Banks

† 1566. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Nationalised Banks that have been permitted to open their additional branches during the year, 2006-07;

(b) the names of the places where the permission to open these branches has been granted;

(c) the branches out of these which have been issued licenses for opening by the Reserve Bank of India alongwith the dates on which these licences were issued; and

(d) the details of the action being taken to provide licences to the remaining branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank-wise details of the authorisations issued to nationalized banks for opening of branches during the period April, 2005 to March, 2006 (latest available) are given in the statement *(See* below).

RBI has revised its Branch Authorisation Policy and the earlier system of granting licences for individual branches from time to time has been replaced by a system of giving approvals on an annual basis. As such banks are not required to obtain licences for individual branches. A consolidated Letter of Authorisation/Permission is being issued to the banks by the RBI for opening of 'branches' with the name of the center (city/town/village). No specific location within the center is prescribed and banks are free to open the branch at any location within the center for which the authorization has been given. Banks are expected to open the branches within one year from the date of the Letter of Authorisation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.